

# International Education Report



*Preparing Nebraska Students for  
Global Literacy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

Nebraska Department of Education  
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## ***Rationale for Nebraska International Education Initiative***

### **Why International Education?**

One of the urgent challenges we face in Nebraska and as a nation is to improve the international knowledge and skills of our young people. To address the challenges of preparing students to be citizens, workers and leaders in the interconnected world of the twenty-first century, we propose to create the Nebraska Council of International Education. The Council will include experts representing the Nebraska Department of Education, K-16 educational institutions, teacher and higher education, government officials, the Department of Economic Development, the private sector, foundations, non-profits and philanthropists. This is a first step in the Nebraska Department of Education initiative to promote integrating international education into the current curriculum of Nebraska schools. This is not an “add-on” but an integral and complementary part of the effort to strengthen global education in Nebraska.

### **Nebraska – Part of the Economic Global Community**

The primary reason for integrating international education in all curriculum areas is to meet the needs of an expanding and internationalizing Nebraska economy and to cope with the changing demographics of the state. Employers from agriculture to industrial businesses in Nebraska are searching for employees who have the necessary cultural understanding, technical skills and linguistic knowledge of the global community to work effectively with agriculture and businesses in countries around the world. According to the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, Nebraska exporters sell to about 180 countries worldwide each year. Nebraska's exports totaled over \$3.6 billion in 2006 representing a 20.7% increase of exports over 2005. In addition, since 1990 as the economy has expanded, the state's population has diversified and grown to more than 1.7 million with the Hispanic population increasing 155.4% and the Asian population increasing 124%. While these two groups showed the largest growth, the diversity of Nebraska's population includes people from at least 25 global communities of the world. In order to meet these needs and educational challenges, the Nebraska Department of Education will convene a statewide Summit on International Education to develop a strategic plan and launch the Nebraska Council of International Education, which will work to oversee the development of the resources essential to guarantee integration of international education into the curriculum. The Council will also work to secure long-term funding to ensure sustainability of the project. This will be preceded by a state survey to assess the training needs, curricula and resources for international education.

### **Building a Foundation for International Education**

Since 2004, the Nebraska Department of Education has been building the foundation to provide opportunities for schools to integrate international education into all curriculum areas. Larry Starr, Director of Social Studies, and Vickie Scow, Director of World Languages, have collaborated with Natalie Hahn, president and founder of The Malaika Foundation, and have formed a partnership to address the issue. The mission of The Malaika Foundation is to “add an international dimension to learning in Nebraska schools and libraries, and other educational institutions, with the goal of building greater understanding among young people from different global cultural traditions.” As a result of this partnership, The Malaika Foundation sponsored three International Education Symposia for Nebraska Educators. The first was held at Doane College in 2004, the second at the Mahoney Center in 2005 and the third at the University of Nebraska-Kearney in 2006. Approximately 150 Nebraska Teachers gained new understandings of the global community, obtained models of effective classroom strategies for teaching international education, and had access to a large number of resources that can be used to enhance the global thinking of their students. The Nebraska Department of Education has also been working with postsecondary institutions, the governments of China, France, Spain, and Germany, Offutt Air Force Base, and businesses to provide leadership for the international education effort. To provide international education resources for all curriculum areas, the Nebraska Department of Education and its partners need to bring together all the various pieces that have been developed in order to attain our goal of helping schools integrate international education into all school curriculum areas.

Dr. Doug Christensen, Commissioner, Nebraska Department of Education and Dr. Natalie Hahn, President of the Malaika Foundation, have demonstrated foresight and commitment in promoting international education in order to prepare Nebraska students to be successful global citizens, workers and leaders in the interconnected world of the twenty-first century. As a result of these efforts, the concepts and strategies for developing international education in Nebraska have begun to take shape. Nebraska is ready to move forward with the next steps.

### **Pre-Summit Reflection Questions**

1. What knowledge and skills are critical for interactive participation in a global society?
2. What activities and opportunities would enhance your organization's role in promoting international education?
3. What traits and skills would an ideal employee need to have in order to be hired by a business or industry participating in global trade?
4. What international partnership activities and opportunities would enhance preparation for participating in global trade?
5. How can we provide a world class education to all Nebraska students?

## ***Nebraska Summit on International Education***

### **Summit Participants**

Over 40 invited participants attended the International Education Summit held at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel in Lincoln, Nebraska on May 6, 2008. Vickie Scow, Nebraska Department of Education World Language Director, and Larry Starr, Nebraska Department of Education Social Studies Director, were instrumental in organizing the summit. Attendees included representatives from the Secretary of State's Office, Nebraska Department of Economic Development, National Council of Economic Education, Nebraska Department of Education, State Board of Education, Nebraska P16 Education, Offutt Air Force Base, Asia Society, the Malaika Foundation, FutureForce Nebraska, Valmont Industries, Bridge Worldwide, Inc., University of Nebraska, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Omaha Public Schools, Millard Public Schools, Grand Island Public Schools, Kearney Public Schools, and Logan View Public Schools.

### **Agenda Activities**

Dr. Doug Christensen, Commissioner, Nebraska Department of Education, welcomed the group, and Donlynn Rice, Curriculum Supervisor, Nebraska Department of Education, facilitated meeting activities. Heather Singmaster, Senior Program Associate for Education with the Asia Society, was the keynote speaker for the summit. Her address, "Going Global: Preparing U.S. Students for an Interconnected World," awakened a new awareness of the challenges of successfully participating in a globalized society and explored methods of integrating international content into school curriculum areas. Summit agenda items included insights into why international education matters, roundtable discussions of international education initiatives developed by other states, and a brainstorming session to reflect on the international education needs in Nebraska schools as projected from the International Education Needs Assessment Survey conducted by the Nebraska Department of Education. Afternoon activities focused on the future of international education in Nebraska, including the formation of a Nebraska Council of International Education as well as a Framework and Program of Action. The summit provided an excellent foundation for future progress in international education development in Nebraska.



Heather Singmaster, Asia Society

★ [Click here to view a short video clip of the International Education Summit](#)

★ [Click here to access International Education Summit Agenda, PowerPoint, and Handouts](#)

## Review of State Initiatives for International Education

The following state plans and initiatives served as models for discussion and provided perspectives to aid in the development of an International Education Initiative for Nebraska.

### DELAWARE

The Delaware Department of Education and the Delaware International Trade Council have conducted a baseline analysis of international education in the state K-20. The results of this analysis were released in October 2004 in the form of the report, *Delaware K-20 International Education Capacity Study*. Delaware has also created two professional development clusters, one on Asia and one on technology and international studies, which are promoting a cadre of teachers ready to support the expansion of international content statewide. The state is working with district and school education leaders to create a statewide international education curriculum. A graduation requirement of two years of a world language was recently passed. The Department of Education held the *Delaware Summit on International Education* in 2006, in Dover. Delaware was the co-recipient of the 2005 Goldman Sachs State Prize for International Education.



From Left: Volker Langeheine, Millard North High School, Tom Gouttierre, University of Nebraska-Omaha, and Stephanie Iwan Flamme, Logan View Jr/Sr High School, participate in roundtable discussion of state initiative models.

### KENTUCKY

In 2002, Kentucky legislators passed a concurrent resolution in support of international travel programs and international education more generally. New legislation to recognize International Education Week has now been introduced. The state funded ten elementary world language and arts grants. High school reform efforts are increasingly stressing language learning as a key element to college preparation. In October 2003, the Kentucky Department of Education convened stakeholders from education, business, government, and private agencies for the first statewide *International Education Summit*. The Department of Education released a report entitled, *Kentucky International Education Summit Report* in 2004.

Kentucky is now working to establish the first statewide virtual international studies high school. Students will be required to complete courses in geography, international economics, world history, and government, and demonstrate proficiency in a language, and participate in both an international travel experience and an international service project. A Memorandum of Understanding with the Chinese Ministry of Education was signed in the fall of 2005, resulting in a visiting Chinese teacher who created a virtual Chinese language course especially for the school.

### NEW JERSEY

New Jersey students are required to study a world language in grades K-8. New Jersey high school students must complete at least one year of study in world history and cultures and are required to demonstrate world language competency for graduation. The DOE in collaboration with CLASS hosted a sold-out, half-day workshop for NJ district administrators entitled: *Fostering the New Jersey/China Connection: Creating Chinese Language Programs in Our Schools*. A report on the status of foreign language enrollments, containing data for the 2003-2004 school year, was released in 2005.

The state convened an International Education Summit and launched a website in 2004. A 5-year strategic plan was submitted to the Governor, Commissioner of Education, and State Board of Education. The New Jersey General Assembly passed a resolution in March 2005 encouraging international education activities. A new STEM office has been created in the Department of Education.

### NORTH CAROLINA

The state of North Carolina was the recipient of the 2003 Goldman Sachs Prize for International Education in the State Category. The North Carolina in the World Initiative, based at the University of North Carolina's Center for International Understanding and the Governor's office, is coordinating four leadership teams to develop action strategies to improve and expand international education through:



school-to-school linkages; higher education-school partnerships; teacher knowledge; and world languages. A public report was issued by the four leadership teams to the legislature and business community at the 2005 summit. The initiative has also released an Action Plan, brochure and a website. A new report, *Preparing North Carolina Teachers for an Interconnected World*, answers the question, "How do we instill a global perspective in our teacher education candidates, thereby building their capacity to prepare students to interact with the world community both inside and outside North Carolina's borders?" *Creating Internationally Competitive Schools* was released in December by the Public School Forum.

A \$200,000 appropriation to the Center for International Understanding for the purposes of continuing the statewide collaborative international education effort passed the 2005 session of the North Carolina General Assembly. This appropriation has been introduced again for the 2007 session. School partnerships with China and Mexico have been established.



From Left: Linda Horton, Millard Public Schools, Joe Higgins, Nebraska State Board of Education, and Mary Duffy, Nebraska Department of Education, lay the groundwork for establishing a Nebraska International Education Initiative.

## **WEST VIRGINIA**

The West Virginia Governor's Commission on International Education released its report, *Preparing A Citizenry for the Global Age*, in March 2004. The report documents the need for international education in the state, current programs and models, and strategic recommendations to improve public awareness, use of technology, world language study and institutional partnerships K-16. West Virginia has also established a Governor's Summer Institute and administers the Cyrus Vance Award for International Education. A website, West Virginia and the World, has also been established.

This year, the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC) through the Consortium for Internationalizing Higher Education (CIHE) will provide competitive grant awards, up to \$15,000 for a one-year period, for public institutions of higher education to implement sustainable programs that seek to internationalize their majors, core curricula and foreign language programs with some impact on international student enrollment or sending West Virginia students abroad.

## **WISCONSIN**

Building on the momentum generated by Wisconsin's curriculum planning guide for integrating international content into state standards for all subjects, State Superintendent Libby Burmaster created a 25-member statewide international education council to focus on a K-16 approach to internationalizing the schools. The council in turn developed four regional leadership alliances made up of education practitioners from across the state to advise the council. The state budget added an item for international education. The Department of Public Instruction has hosted several professional development workshops to connect standards in 11 subject areas to global activities, and has identified and honored model programs and teachers statewide. Currently work is being done to infuse all curriculum with international knowledge and skills. A Statewide International Education Summit was held on January 27, 2005. Wisconsin was the recipient of the 2004 Goldman Sachs Prize for International Education in the State Category. Following the summit, a new publication, *Global Literacy for Wisconsin Students*, was released. This strategy document outlines international education opportunities in the state.

## International Education Survey for Nebraska Schools Districts

A web-based survey was developed by the Nebraska Department of Education. Nebraska K-12 school administrators throughout the state were invited to complete the survey in January, 2008. The results of the survey provided a baseline and valuable input for guiding the development of an international education plan for Nebraska. Summit participants worked in groups to review the results of the survey and were asked to consider the following:

What is the current status of International Education in Nebraska?

- As you review look for emerging themes and needs that are evident through the survey responses.
- Add additional needs you recognize from your own experiences.
- Prioritize the top five themes/needs.

## Results Summary of International Education Survey

**Which of the following best describes your school's international education emphasis?  
(Check all that apply)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
We have a formal international education program that is part of the school's overall common vision.	17.4%	30
We don't have a formal program, but international education is part of the school's overall common vision.	23.8%	41
International education is largely dependent upon the interests of particular teachers or what is currently happening in the world.	57.6%	99
Other (please explain)	8.1%	14
Number Responding		172
Not Responding		1

**For whom is international education offered at your school?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
All students	61.1%	99
Particular groups of students	18.5%	30
Other (please explain)	20.4%	33
Number Responding		162
Not Responding		11

**Which best describes how international education is taught at your school?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
International education content is infused across the curriculum.	44.1%	67
International education content is taught through specific course offerings.	40.8%	62
Other (please explain)	15.1%	23
Number Responding		152
Not Responding		21

**Does your school participate in contests/competitions related to international education?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
No	85.0%	108
Yes (please give examples)	15.0%	19
Number Responding		127
Not Responding		46

**Which of the following best describes the availability of resources supporting international education in your school?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Adequate	33.9%	43
Inadequate	66.1%	84
Number Responding		127
Not Responding		46

**In which of the following is your school involved? (Check all that apply)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
International exchange programs for students or teachers.	69.1%	67
Study abroad programs for students or teachers.	17.5%	17
Travel abroad programs for students or teachers	44.3%	43
Sister/partner schools programs.	16.5%	16
International activities.	16.5%	16
Using technology for international activities.	46.4%	45
Involving community and utilizing resources.	36.1%	35
Number Responding		97
Not Responding		76



## Frameworks and Action Plan

During the last hour of the summit, participants focused on developing the frameworks, action plan, and next steps needed to implement the Nebraska International Education Initiative. From this discussion, the following actions were recommended.

### What we want to accomplish:

Develop the plan of action for the proposed Nebraska Council of International Education to prepare Nebraska Students for Global Literacy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

### Action Plan:

- Establish the Nebraska Council of International Education
  - Select members for the Nebraska Council of International Education with input from others
    - Offices of governor, secretary of state, economic development, Nebraska Department of Education, K-12 educators, higher education institutions, corporate representatives, policy representatives, foundations, The Malaika Foundation, FutureForce, non profits, etc.
  - Nebraska Council of International Education will engage in strategic planning
    - Determine a timeline for meetings
    - Develop the mission and vision statements for Nebraska international education
    - Determine a timeline for implementing action plan
- Develop the NDE Website for International Education
  - Develop and maintain the Nebraska Department of Education International Education website
  - Provide links and a variety of resources for schools
  - Invite educators to submit resources and links that can be added to the website

## Nebraska Council of International Education

### Task Force to Establish the Nebraska Council of International Education

The following individuals or their designee comprised the Task Force with the responsibility of establishing the Nebraska Council of International Education:

- Dr. Doug Christensen, Commissioner, Nebraska Department of Education
- Dave Heineman, Governor, State of Nebraska
- John A. Gale, Secretary of State, State of Nebraska
- Dr. Natalie Hahn, President and Founder, The Malaika Foundation
- Ann Masters, Commissioner's Office, Nebraska Department of Education
- Major Radoslaw Rusek, Director, Offutt AFB Language Learning Center
- Susan Rouch, Department of Economic Development, Director, Office of International Trade and Investment
- Vickie Scow, Director, World Language Education, Nebraska Department of Education
- Larry Starr, Director, Social Studies Education, Nebraska Department of Education
- Randy Vlasin, Executive Director, FutureForce Nebraska

### Nebraska Council of International Education Members

Council members include David Kline, Bridge Worldwide, Inc., Dave Perkins, Educational Service Unit #7, Randy Vlasin, FutureForce Nebraska, Kevin Witte, Kearney Public Schools, Stephanie Iwan Flamme, Logan View Public Schools, Rose Barta, Andy Fiedler, and Volker Langeheine, Millard Public Schools, John LeFeber, National Council of Economic Education, Susan Rouch, Nebraska Department of Economic Development, Doug Christensen, Ann Masters, Donlynn Rice, Vickie Scow, Bonnie Sibert, and Larry Starr, Nebraska Department of Education, Marty Mahler, Nebraska P-16, Marie Trayer, Nebraska Wesleyan University, John Whatley, Offutt Air Force Base Language Center, Patricia Schweer, Kent Day, Harris Payne, and Susan Toohey, Omaha Public Schools, Shelley Harrold, Secretary of State's Office, Joe Higgins, State Board of Education, Bev Austin and Genie Solt, The Malaika Foundation, Jerry Fox,

University of Nebraska-Kearney, Marjorie Kostelnik, Deb Mullen, and Susan Wunder, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Tom Gouttierre, University of Nebraska-Omaha, and Tom Carman, Westside Community Schools.

### **Nebraska Council of International Education Meetings**

The initial meeting of the Nebraska Council of International Education convened on June 25, 2008. The council initiated its operations and determined that the council would meet twice a year. Possible partnerships among the corporate, philanthropic, nonprofit sectors, foundations and the Nebraska Department of Education were identified and funding opportunities were discussed. After a lengthy debate regarding the definition of international education, the subject was tabled for the next scheduled meeting set for January 15, 2009.



The Nebraska Council of International Education holds its initial meeting on June 25, 2008.

At the January meeting, the council finalized the definition, mission, and goals for Nebraska international education.

#### **Definition:**

International education empowers people to interact in the global community. International education develops:

- knowledge and understanding of world regions, cultures, and global issues
- attitudes of respect and concern for people and their cultures
- skills to communicate and participate in diverse world cultures

#### **Mission:**

The state of Nebraska is dedicated to ensuring that its students are capable of successfully participating and interacting in a culturally diverse and interdependent world.

#### **Goals:**

- 1) Develop a definition of international education to be adopted by stakeholders
- 2) Create and implement integrated instruction in PreK-16 international education
- 3) Develop and offer professional development opportunities in international education
- 4) Identify and provide resources to support international education
- 5) Build partnerships with stakeholders

### ***International Education Regional Workshops***

In an effort to promote integration of global awareness into the classroom, an International Education Workshop with the theme of "Going Global: Bringing the World to Your Classroom" was conducted at five sites during October, 2008. The workshops, sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Education and the Malaika Foundation, were very well received with nearly one-hundred K-16 educators attending one of the all-day workshops held at Norfolk, Beatrice, Omaha, North Platte, and Scottsbluff. Vickie Scow, NDE World Language Director, and Larry Starr, NDE Social Studies Director, planned, coordinated, and facilitated activities at the workshops. Each participant received a Going Global Toolkit that contained classroom strategies, handouts, and resources for students and teachers.

Genie Solt, Executive Director of The Malaika Foundation, presented information related to the work of the foundation. Patricia Davis, Education Director with Opportunity Education, shared information about their Sister Schools Program that seeking to facilitate relationships between schools in the developed and the

developing world. A special highlight of the workshop was a presentation given by Dean Jacobs with Travel 4 Life. Born in Nebraska, Dean left corporate America to pursue his dream of traveling around the world to photographically document and verify the common ground of our humanity. Since 2001, he has traversed the globe exploring over 45 countries on a low budget adventure, propelled by a desire to understand the world we share.



At Left: Dean Jacobs shares stories and photographs of his many fascinating travel experiences with participants at the International Education Workshops.



At Right: Workshop participants engage in activities designed to promote integration of international education into school classrooms.

★ [Click here to view agenda from International Education Workshop](#)

★ [Click here to view PowerPoint presentation from the International Education Workshop](#)

★ [Click here to view activity handouts from the International Education Workshop](#)

### ***Timeline for Nebraska International Education Initiative***

Events are listed in reverse chronological order.

- In 2009, The Nebraska Department of Education, in partnership with The Malaika Foundation, received a grant from the Longview Foundation to support the Nebraska International Education Initiative.
- The Council completed supporting documents in January 2009, including the definition, mission, and goals of international education for the state of Nebraska.
- The Nebraska Council of International Education was established in June 2008.
- The Nebraska Department of Education and The Malaika Foundation worked together to present 2008 statewide International Education Workshops.

- The Nebraska Department of Education and The Malaika Foundation worked together to plan the International Symposiums held in 2004, 2005 and 2006.
- The Nebraska Department of Education and the Malaika Foundation have made a commitment to international education in Nebraska. The mission statement of the Malaika Foundation is evidence of its intent, along with the Nebraska Department of Education, to add an international dimension to learning in Nebraska schools with the goal of building greater understanding among young people from different global cultural traditions. Understanding can lead to greater harmony in the increasingly diverse environments of our classrooms and communities and add global thinking and international perspective to the lives of Nebraska children.
- In 2008, the Nebraska Department of Education, in partnership with The Malaika Foundation, received a grant from the Longview Foundation to support the development of international education in Nebraska.
- Cooperative partnerships have been established between the Nebraska Department of Education, The Malaika Foundation, Nebraska State Council for Social Studies (NSCSS), and the Nebraska International Languages Association (NILA) to promote international education and assist with the International Education Symposiums.
- The Malaika Foundation, its board members, and “Friends of Malaika” play a strong advocacy role for development of international education policy initiatives in the state of Nebraska.
- The Malaika Foundation solicits funds from private foundations, individuals, and the international business community for financial support of international education in Nebraska. A prime example is the Kenneth Morrison Fellowships enabling teachers to travel and study during the summer months in other countries. The Malaika Foundation will continue work with the Nebraska Department of Education to identify other donors and collaboratively develop projects for additional funding, particularly to provide educational resources and training for Nebraska educators on international education.
- Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) agreements have been signed between the State of Nebraska with Spain, Germany, France, and China that promote relationships between Nebraska and these countries that foster knowledge and appreciation of the language and culture shared by the communities that share resources and that provide students with a multicultural education that trains them for future personal, academic and professional success. Additional MOU agreements are in process with India and Mexico. Cooperative programs have been established including teacher exchanges, professional development programs for teachers and administrators, partnering K-12 classrooms in order to communicate and work with each other on mutual projects through technology, and postsecondary exchanges and the establishment of the Confucius Institute, Spanish Studies Institute, the Center for Afghanistan Studies and other international programs at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Kearney, and Omaha.



From Left: Bev Austin and Genie Solt, The Malaika Foundation, Larry Starr, Nebraska Department of Education, Marty Mahler, Nebraska P-16, and Vickie Scow, Nebraska Department of Education, work on establishing a definition, mission, and goals for international education in Nebraska.

